



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

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June 8, 2005

Paul Dabbs  
Statewide Planning Branch  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: California Water Plan Update 2005 Public Review Draft

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The League of Women Voters of California thanks the Department of Water Resources (DWR) for holding public meetings throughout California to educate the public about the latest update of the California Water Plan. Several League members serve on its Advisory Committee and have kept local League members informed.

We are pleased that the *California Water Plan Update 2005* Public Review Draft has a "Less Resource Intensive" scenario, as described on pages 4 and 15 of the Highlights. This raises the clear possibility of a decrease in overall water consumption in the future because of greater conservation and water resource management techniques. However, we feel that there are inconsistencies which cause the effectiveness of the Water Plan to be minimized. We have already written to DWR (March 13) about our concerns and urge you to reconsider our former requests as well as the following:

1. Basically, we recommend that the California Water Plan include a third, equally important Initiative, Conservation and Recycling, in addition to the two already chosen (which are obvious priorities for implementation). The two Initiatives stress (1) regional management and (2) expansion of infrastructure including the possibility of new on-stream dams. The omission of conservation as an Initiative gives this important strategy a second-class status making the Less Resource Intensive Scenario of little consequence.
2. We also agree with others that a major flaw in the new Water Plan overall is its failure to acknowledge that a large portion of the state's future water supplies will come from more efficient use and management of existing water supplies. Greater coordination of conjunctive use of ground and surface water is essential as well.
3. We also understand that some of DWR's figures for future water use and growth are similar to projections in the Planning and Conservation League's "Investment Strategy." However conclusions differ. The League has also learned that the Pacific Institute is publishing a new report in late June on the potential of conservation. We recommend further analysis of these reputable reports by the DWR and Advisory Committee members

to ascertain where there are differences and agreements with the Draft Water Plan findings. Since all reports will be available to legislators, greater coordination can strengthen a basic implementation plan and minimize confusion and disagreement. We think further analysis is essential. It can promote sound and sustainable solutions in these uncertain times.

We thank you for this opportunity to express our point of view.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jacqueline Jacobberger  
President